General Assembly

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17 January 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 103

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/55/591)*]

55/57. International Year of Volunteers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/17 of 20 November 1997, in which it proclaimed the year 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers, and also recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/44 of 22 July 1997,

Recalling also the outcome document of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[1] entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, in which the General Assembly recommended the promotion of the involvement of volunteers in social development, inter alia, by encouraging Governments, taking into account the views of all actors, to develop comprehensive strategies and programmes by raising public awareness about the value and opportunities of voluntarism and by facilitating an enabling environment for individuals and other actors of civil society to engage in, and the private sector to support, voluntary activities,

Welcoming the decision of the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-eighth session, to include the subject of volunteering in the provisional agenda for its thirty-ninth session,[2]

Taking into account the valuable contribution of volunteering to both economic and social development,

Bearing in mind that volunteering is one of the important ways in which people participate in societal development,

1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and the United Nations system for the promotion of volunteerism and, specifically, in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Volunteers, and encourages them to continue their efforts;

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-24/8/Rev.1), chap. III.
[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (E/2000/26 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. B.

2. *Calls upon* States to promote, especially during the Year, an environment conducive to the discussion, at the national and local levels, of the characteristics and trends of volunteer action in their own societies, including the major challenges which the Year can help to address, and to incorporate the subject of volunteering into high-level and other meetings and events during 2001;

3. *Invites* States to consider all means available for more people to become involved in voluntary action and to be drawn from a broader cross-section of society, especially from groups, including young people, older people and people with disabilities, in view of the benefits accruing to volunteers through volunteer action;

4. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, eminent persons and other relevant actors to take all possible measures to promote volunteer action, especially during the Year, in particular at the local level, and in cooperation with, inter alia, local authorities, community leaders, the media and schools;

5. *Encourages* organizations of the United Nations system to pay attention to the Year in their regular work and in their relevant meetings and to continue to collaborate with the United Nations Volunteers programme as focal point for the Year to ensure that the contributions of volunteers in their own areas of concern are fully recognized;

6. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to make appropriate suggestions and recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to further the contribution of volunteering to social development;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit his note[3] transmitting the contribution of the United Nations Volunteers programme to the preparations for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development, and requests him, furthermore, to disseminate it widely within the United Nations system, including by making it available to the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the Habitat Agenda, the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for follow-up to the World Summit for Children, the preparatory committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fifth session;

8. *Decides* that two plenary meetings of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly shall be devoted to volunteering, to coincide with the close of the International Year of Volunteers on 5 December 2001, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on ways in which Governments and the United Nations system could support volunteering for discussion on that occasion;

[3] A/AC.253/16/Add.7.

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the outcome of the International Year of Volunteers and its follow-up.

81st plenary meeting
4 December 2000

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/55/592)*]

55/58. Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/24 of 10 November 1999, and its resolution 54/262 of 25 May 2000, by which it decided to convene the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held in Spain in April 2002,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/1 of 3 May 2000, as well as Commission for Social Development decision 38/100 of 17 February 2000,[1]

Acknowledging the initiatives undertaken and the momentum generated, at all levels, towards addressing the challenges of the ageing of populations and the concerns and contributions of older persons by the celebration of the International Year of Older Persons,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 54/262, the General Assembly decided that the Commission for Social Development would serve as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Reiterating that the Second World Assembly on Ageing should give particular attention, inter alia, to linkages between ageing and development, with particular attention to the needs, priorities and perspectives of developing countries,

Reaffirming the necessity of ensuring that the Second World Assembly on Ageing will provide an action-oriented follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons, and recognizing the importance of an adequate preparatory process,

Reaffirming also that the revised plan of action and the long-term strategy on ageing will contain realistic financial recommendations for implementation,

Recognizing the continuing process of elaboration of the United Nations research agenda on ageing for the twenty-first century, which is aimed at providing a background for policy responses to ageing, in particular in developing countries,

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (E/2000/26 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. C.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons;[2]

2. *Decides* that the Second World Assembly on Ageing shall be held at Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002;

3. *Invites* Member States, where appropriate, to consider extending the mandate of national committees or other mechanisms established on the occasion of the International Year of Older Persons in order to undertake national preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, and also invites Member States currently without them to consider appropriate ways or mechanisms for their preparations for the Second World Assembly;

4. *Notes* the encouraging responses of Member States, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations to the request by the Secretariat eliciting their views on the progress in and obstacles to the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing,[3] as well as on priority issues to be addressed in a revised plan of action, and encourages those that have not yet responded to consider doing so;

5. *Invites* the regional commissions to explore the feasibility of holding regional activities with Member States, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors of civil society in their region, in preparation for and as follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

6. *Invites* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to launch, in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the host country, an information campaign for the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment by the United Nations programme on ageing of the Internet-accessible database on policies and programmes on ageing, and invites Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to collaborate with the Secretariat in updating and maintaining the database through the provision of timely information;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[2] A/55/167.

[3] See *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July–6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16) chap. VI, sect. A.